

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04213 181810Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----086492 181826Z /43

O 181738Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8489
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4213

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, RH
SUBJECT: BOTHA'S LATEST TRIP TO SALISBURY

1. I MET WITH PIK BOTHA RIGHT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM SALISBURY. HE SAID HE MET WITH IAN SMITH, DAVID SMITH AND GAYLARD. HE DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS GRIM, BUT HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED HIS PRIMARY MISSION OF GETTING IAN SMITH TO AGREE NOT TO SHOOT DOWN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PACKAGE.
2. BOTHA STATED THAT HE HAD DESCRIBED THE LONDON TALKS ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS. SMITH ASKED A SERIES OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSALS(E.G. SECURITY PROVISIONS, NUMBER OF SEATS FOR WHITES, REPORTED UN FORCE), MOST OF WHICH HE DECLINED TO ANSWER.
3. BOTHA SAID THAT SMITH HAD TRIED TO GET HIM TO GO BACK TO THE BRITISH TO POSTPONE PUBLICATION OF
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THE PACKAGE UNTIL AFTER AUGUST 31. BOTHA TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SMITH CONCERNING AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, BOTHA SAID THIS SUBJECT HAD COME UP AND HE TOLD SMITH THAT THE INTERNAL OPTION WILL SIMPLY NOT WORK UNLESS

(A) THE SOVIETS VETO THE PACKAGE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
OR (B) HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE THE MODERATES (WHICE
BOTHAS DESCRIBED AS MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND CHIRAU)
ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE WITH NO QUALIFICATION.

5. BOTHAS REPORTED THAT SMITH WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE
TO DAVID OWEN TAKING HIM TO TASK FOR NOT HONORING HIS
PLEDGE TO COME TO SALISBURY TO DISCUSS THE PACKAGE
BEFORE PUTTING IT IN FINAL TERMS. BOTHAS SAID HE
PERSUADED SMITH NOT TO DO THIS. INSTEAD, HE WILL CALL
OWEN THIS AFTERNOON AND URGE HIM IN HIS OWN INTEREST
TO VISIT SALISBURY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS
CONTEXT, BOTHAS SAID THAT HE HAD RESPONDED TO SMITH'S
INQUIRY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE PACKAGE
BY TELLING HIM THAT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ARE NO LONGER
NEGOTIABLE.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR04213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770298-1038
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770848/aaaabopy.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88048b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1561143
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTHA'S LATEST TRIP TO SALISBURY
TAGS: PDEV, SF, RH, (BOTHA, PIK), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88048b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009